

Message Text

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S/S- MR. SEBASTIAN

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT THOMAS LIPPMAN FRONT PAGE BYLINER
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, HEADED "SADAT SETS NEW CONDITIONS FOR
PEACE."

2. CAIRO, DEC. 29--EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TODAY LIST
ED NEW CONDITIONS FOR REACHING A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLE-
MENT THAT COULD FURTHER COMPLICATE THE ALREADY TANGLED NEGO-
TIATING PROCESS.

3. SADAT SAID THAT ANY PALESTINIAN STATE THAT IS CREATED MUST
BE FORMALLY LINKED WITH JORDAN AND THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN THE 1967 WAR MUST BE SWIFT
AND COMPLETE, NOT PHASED OVER AN EXTENDED TIME. HE ALSO SAID
IN AN INTERVIEW THAT LEBANON MUST BE A FULL PARTICIPANT IN
ANY GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE.

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4. THE SURPRISE DEMAND THAT ANY PALESTINIAN STATE BE LINKED
TO JORDAN IS CERTAIN TO DRAW STRONG OPPOSITION FROM MANY
PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND THEIR SUPPORTERS IN HARD-LINE ARAB
COUNTRIES, BUT IT PRESUMABLY WILL BE WELCOMED BY ISRAEL,
WHICH HAS LONG URGED SUCH A LINK.

5. THE SPEEDED-UP TIMETABLE SADAT DEMANDED FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IS ALSO A CHANGE IN HIS POSITION. UNTIL RECENTLY HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE ARABS MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A PEACE AGREEMENT IN WHICH ISRAEL WOULD AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BUT THAT THE PULL OUT COULD BE PHASED OVER AN EXTENDED TIME.

6. DURING AN HOUR-LONG INTERVIEW AT HIS NILE-SIDE RETREAT NORTH OF HERE, SADAT SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO DEALING WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER, WHOSE "RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND" MAKES HIM A "MAN OF FAITH."

7. HE ALSO DESCRIBED AS A "MASTER COUP" SAUDI ARABIA'S DECISION TO LIMIT ITS OIL PRICE INCREASE IN ANTICIPATION OF A U.S. PEACE MOVE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. BUT HE SAID HE HAS NO COMMITMENT FROM SAUDI ARABIA TO USE ITS IMMENSE OIL POWER TO PROD THE UNITED STATES OR TO PUNISH IT IF IT FAILS TO RESPOND.

8. DURING MUCH OF THE INTERVIEW, SADAT STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO REACH A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PEACE SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD RELIEVE BOTH HIS COUNTRY AND ISRAEL OF A MILITARY BURDEN THAT NEITHER CAN AFFORD AND THAT WOULD DEFUSE A DANGEROUS SITUATION.

9. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED, AS HE HAS AT EVERY RECENT OPPORTUNITY, THAT NEW INITIATIVES FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE REQUIRED TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT, "IF THE U.S. IS READY FOR PEACE TO PREVAIL IN THE AREA, IT CAN BE DONE IN A UNCLASSIFIED

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MONTH," HE SAID.

10. THAT IS THE POSITION SADAT HAS TAKEN PUBLICLY EVER SINCE THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN RIYADH AND CAIRO IN OCTOBER AT WHICH ARAB LEADERS AGREED ON A FORMULA FOR ENDING THE WAR IN LEBANON AND ON A STRATEGY TO PERSUADE THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO PRESSURE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT WITH THE ARABS.

11. BUT WHEN SADAT GOT DOWN TO DETAILS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT AT THE VERY LEAST THERE IS A LONG, DELICATE PERIOD OF BAR-GAINING AHEAD BEFORE ANY SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES CAN BE REACHED--NOT JUST BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL BUT AMONG THE ARABS THEMSELVES. ON SOME POINTS HIS POSITION APPEARS TO HAVE HARDENED SINCE HIS MEETINGS LAST WEEK WITH SYRIAN PRESIDENT HAFEZ ASSAD.

12. THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL HAVE CALLED FOR RESUMING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WITH THE ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS OF 1973--THEMSELVES, EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA AND THE SOVIET UNION THE ARABS HAVE LONG INSISTED THAT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION BE REPRESENTED AS WELL, BUT TODAY SADAT ADDED A NEW TWIST. HE SAID HE WOULD "INSIST" THAT LEBANON ALSO ATTEND AS "AN EQUAL PARTNER."

13. LEBANON SIGNED AN ARMISTICE WITH ISRAEL IN 1949 AND EVER SINCE HAS AVOIDED BOTH DIRECT CONFLICT AND PARTICIPATION IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. BUT SADAT SAID THAT LEBANON, WHICH IS NOW UNDER SYRIAN MILITARY OCCUPATION, IS A "CONFRONTATION STATE" THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED IF A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT IS TO BE REACHED.

14. HE SAID LEBANESE PRESIDENT ELIAS SARKIS AGREED WITH HIM

15. SADAT AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS HAVE CALLED FOR THE CREA-
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TION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF JORDAN AND THE GAZA STRIP ONCE THESE LANDS ARE YIELDED BY ISRAEL. THE IDEA THAT THIS STATE SHOULD BE FORMALLY LINKED TO JORDAN IS SURE TO BE UNPALATABLE TO MANY PALESTINIAN LEADERS. THEY HAVE BEEN BITTER FOES OF KING HUSSEIN SINCE HIS ARMY CRUSHED THE GUERRILLA FIGHTERS IN JORDAN'S "BLACK SEPTEMBER" OF 1970.

16. THE PLO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A FULL MEMBER OF THE ARAB LEAGUE AND PALESTINIAN LEADERS ARE UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT WILLINGLY ANY LIMITATIONS ON THE FULL INDEPENDENCE THEY HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

17. ALTHOUGH SADAT HAS NOT RAISED THE ISSUE RECENTLY, HE SAID THAT AFTER A MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN IN 1974 "WE ISSUED A DECLARATION AND I WAS ATTACKED VEHEMENTLY BY THE PALESTINIANS AT THAT TIME. MY IDEA WAS AND STILL IS THAT A CERTAIN RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PALESTINIANS AND JORDAN SHOULD BE DECLARED TO TAKE PLACE WHENEVER THE PALESTINIAN STATE IS CREATED." HE SAID THIS COULD TAKE THE FORM OF A CONFEDERATION OR "WHATEVER MODEL THEY AGREE ON BETWEEN THEM."

18. BEFORE HIS CONFERENCE WITH ASSAD, SADAT HAD BEEN SUGGESTING PUBLICLY THAT THE ARABS MIGHT BE WILLING TO ACCEPT AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PHASED OVER AN EXTENDED TIME. TODAY HE RULED THAT OUT.

19. "WE SHOULDN'T SAY THAT ISRAEL WILL EVACUATE THE LAND IN TWO OR THREE YEARS. NO. THIS IS WRONG. THEY SHOULD EVACU-

ATE IN A SUITABLE TIME,' HE SAID.

20. AFTER OCCUPYING THE SINAI IN THE 1956 WAR, HE SAID, THE ISRAELIS PULLED OUT IN TWO OR THREE MONTHS, "AND THEY CAN NOW FOLLOW THEIR OWN EXAMPLE."

21. SADAT DID NOT SAY THAT ASSAD SHARED ALL HIS VIEWS ON A UNCLASSIFIED

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PEACE AGREEMENT. "WHAT I'M TELLING YOU IS MY VIEW," HE SAID.

22. LAST WEEK'S EGYPTIAN-SYRIAN COMMUNIQUE, IN WHICH THE TWO NATIONS ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A "UNIFIED POLITICAL COMMAND" WAS NOT INTENDED TO LEAD TO AN ACTUAL MERGER, HE SAID.

23. ITS PURPOSE, SADAT SAID, WAS TO SHOW THAT "ARAB SOLIDARITY IS VERY SOLID AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE VERY SOLID," AND THAT "WE ARE GENUINELY PREPARING FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE."

24. SAUDI ARABIA'S REFUSAL TO GO ALONG WITH THE 15 PER CENT PRICE INCREASE FOR NEXT YEAR ADOPTED BY 11 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES--AN ACTION FOR WHICH THE SAUDIS SAID THEY EXPECT A SHOW OF AMERICAN "APPRECIATION"--WAS PRAISED BY SADAT AS "A MASTER COUP."

25. HE SAID THE SAUDIS ACTED "OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL AND WITHOUT ANY INTERFERENCE FROM ANYBODY." THE POSSIBILITY THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD IMPOSE A NEW OIL EMBARGO OR A HEFTY PRICE INCREASE TO PUNISH THE UNITED STATES IF THERE IS NO ACTION ON THE MIDEAST DIPLOMATIC FRONT WAS NEVER DISCUSSED IN HIS MEETINGS WITH KING KHALID, SADAT SAID.

26. "BUT IF SOME TIME THE PEACE PROCESS PROVES TO BE A FAILURE, THEN IT IS FOR ALL MY ARAB COLLEAGUES TO DECIDE FOR THEMSELVES. I SHALL BE PUTTING THE FACTS BEFORE THEM AND AFTER THAT EVERYONE HAS TO MAKE HIS OWN DECISION," HE SAID.

27. SADAT SAID THE ARABS WERE NOT TRYING TO "STAMPEDE OR HARASS" CARTER BY AIMING A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE AT HIM BEFORE HE EVEN TAKES OFFICE. WHAT THEY ARE DOING, HE SAID, IS RESUMING A "PEACE PROCESS" THAT STARTED AFTER THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WAR OF OCTOBER 1973 AND WAS INTERRUPTED FIRST BY THE WATER-GATE AFFAIR AND THEN BY THE AMERICAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

28. "WHAT I AM SAYING IS THIS. LET US RESUME THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE PROCESS THAT WE HAVE ALREADY STARTED. AND FOR THAT I AM SAYING THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN ENCOURAGING ELEMENTS. FIRST OF ALL MR. CARTER, WITH HIS RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND. HE IS A MAN OF FAITH AND I ALWAYS LIKE THE MAN OF FAITH. WE SHALL NEVER DIFFER," HE SAID. (END TEXT)
ROBINSON

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